

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TH HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 32052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, NAC, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: SEPCIAL CEREMONIAL OPENING

SUMMARY: IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, SYG LUNS WELCOMED NEW
MINISTERS AND NOTED THE NEED TO REINFORCE THE COHESION
AND DEFENSIVE EFFORTS OF THE ALLIANCE. HONORARY PRES-
IDENT MEDEIROS FERREIRA (PORTUGAL) AFFIRMED HIS COUNTRY'S
COMMITMENT TO NATO, COMMENTED ON THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP
OF SECURITY AND DETENTE, AND UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR
THE ALLIANCE TO REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION WHILE
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MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF ITS MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN OPENING THE NAC MINISTERIAL, SYG LUNS WELCOMED CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD, WHO WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE NAC FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE NOTED THAT FORLANI HAD REPRESENTED ITALY BEFORE AT NATO MEETINGS AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, BUT THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME HE WAS ATTENDING AS FOREIGN MINISTER. HE THEN CALLED UPON THE HONORARY PRESIDENT, PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA.

2. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID IT WAS A SPECIAL HONOR FOR HIM TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL, SINCE THE PRESIDENCY HAD ROTATED TO PORTUGAL WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME PORTUGAL WAS BEING REPRESENTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID PORTUGAL'S ATTACHMENT TO NATO WAS NEVER IN DOUBT, AND INDEED TOOK ON A SPECIAL MEANING NOW, SINCE PORTUGAL HAD JUST MADE ITS ENTRY INTO THE EUROGROUP. HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT PORTUGAL HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DEVELOP ITS COOPERATION WITH NATO.

3. NOTING THAT NATO WAS A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE, ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT THE LIBERTY OF ITS MEMBERS, MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID THE ALLIANCE HAD NOT LOST ITS MEANING OVER THE YEARS AND REMAINED THE FOUNDATION OF THE SECURITY OF ITS MEMBERS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE FOR THOSE MEMBERS THAT MUST SEEK TO ESTABLISH THEIR SECURITY FAR FROM THEIR OWN BORDERS, INCLUDING CERTAINLY A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE PORTUGAL.

4. MEDEIROS FERREIRA RECALLED THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PURSUIT OF DETENTE. THE EXPERIENCE OF HELSINKI HAD SHOWN THAT A STRONG DEFENSE IS COMPATIBLE WITH A SEARCH FOR EAST-WEST DETENTE, A SEARCH WHICH THE ALLIES WOULD PURSUE AS THEY PREPARED FOR THE BELGRADE MEETINGS.

5. COMMENTING ON THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF PUBLIC OPINION AND SECURITY IN DEMOCRATIC

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SOCIETIES, MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID ALLIED PEOPLES WANT HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING AND REDUCED ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN A FRAMEWORK OF LIBERTY. IT WAS NECESSARY TO SATISFY THESE ASPIRATIONS, TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE AND TO SEEK DETENTE, AND TO WARD OFF EFFORTS TO IMPOSE AN UNACCEPTABLE WAY OF LIFE ON ALLIED PUBLICS. NOTING THAT WHAT SOME CRITICS OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES CONSIDER A SIGN OF WEAKNESS IS IN FACT AN ELEMENT OF STRENGTH,

MEDEIROS FERREIRA WAS CONFIDENT THAT NATO COULD CONTINUE TO ADAPT AND DEVELOP IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE ITS RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC OPINION.

6. IN CONCLUDING, MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD MISS THE STATESMANSHIP OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO WOULD SOON BE LEAVING HIS POST.

7. LUNS RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT THE NAC SESSION WAS OPENING IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT DID NOT INSPIRE OPTIMISM. EAST-WEST RELATIONS, NOTABLY SALT, WERE PRESENTLY STAGNANT, AND SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WERE PURSUING A SYSTEMATIC POLICY OF INCREASING THEIR MILITARY POWER. LUNS ADDED THAT, WHILE IT WAS NOT A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION, MANY OF THE MINISTERS ATTENDING WOULD HAVE IN MIND THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MOST ALLIED COUNTRIES.

8. LUNS SAID PUBLIC OPINION WAS WATCHING AND EXPECTING A GREAT DEAL OF THIS COUNCIL SESSION AND THAT THE COUNCIL COULD NOT RESPOND TO THE EXPECTATION IF IT ABANDONS ITSELF TO PESSIMISM. THIS MINISTERIAL SESSION WOULD BE POSITIVE IF IT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE, TO SHARPEN THE REALIZATION OF EACH OF ITS MEMBERS OF THE NEED TO DEVOTE A SUFFICIENT EFFORT TO ITS OWN SECURITY AND TO THE SECURITY OF ITS PARTNERS, AND TO REINFORCE SOLIDARITY AMONG ALL THE ALLIES. KISSINGER

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